SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VI.
Two Miracles of Mercy.
(John 5: 1—6: 71
Printed Text John 5: 2—9; 6: 8—15.
Golden Text— The very works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. John 5: 36.

The Lesson in Its Setting

Time—The events recorded in the sixth chapter took place in April, A.D. 29

Place—The events in the fifth chapter all occurred in Jerusalem. The feeding of the five thousand took place at Bethsaida. Christ's walking on the sea, of course, occurred at the Sea of Galilee The discourses that followed were all given in the synagogue at Capernaum.

1 Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porches. The sheep gate repeatedly referred to in the Old Testament (Neh 3: 1, 32; 12: 39) is known to have been north of the temple, corresponding with the modern St. Stephen's gate, which "is the gate through which the Bedawins still lead the flocks to Jerusalem for sa' '

2 In these lay a multitude of them that were sick, blind, halt. The word "halt" simply means crippled. Withered. That is, "dried up." (Cf. Matt. 12: 10; Luke 6: 6,8.)

4. And a certain man was there, who had been thirty and eight years in his infirmity The word translated "infirmity" is a word literally meaning "weakness," and all of us must confess that we are subject to infirmities of one kind and another. However, our Lord Himself, "took our infirmities' (Matt 8: 17) and the Spirit also "helpeth our infirmity" (Rom 8: 26; Heb. 4: 15).

5. When Jesus saw him lying, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case: When our Lord came to Jerusalem, His eye rested with pity and sympathy upon those who needed help, and here the most hopless case of all the invalid multitude about this pool. He saith unto him: Wouldest thou be made whole? "This poor man probably had waited so long, and long waited in vain, that hope was dead or well-nigh dead within him, and the question is asked to awaken in him anew a yearning after the benefit which the Saviour was about to impart.

6. The sick man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. The answer of this man shows how absolutely necessary our Lord's question really was. for it reveals utter hopelessness He did not even say that he wanted to be made whole.

7 Jesus saith unto him, Arise, take up thy bed, and walk. It is significant that our Lord did not tell the man he was healed. He commanded him to do something that would prove he was healed of his infirmity.

7. And straightway the man was made whole, and took up his bed and walked. Christ did not half save this man from his terrible infirmity. —the man did not crawl away from the pool; he did not hobble out on crutches; he did not have to be carried out as he was carried in. When the Lord Jesus Christ saves us, He saves us from our own individual sins, as well as from sin. Now it was the sabbath on that day. The Jewish leaders immediately told the healed man that he had violated the Sabbath day because, in taking up his bed, he had broken the law which commanded men not to work on the Sabbath (Ex. 20: 10; Jer. 17: 21). The man's courageous answer is a thrilling one, namely, that the one who healed him had commanded him to do what he did

8. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him: There is a lad here. The word "lad" in the original, means "a little boy," and this is the only little boy who actually takes any part in the Gospel history. Who hath five barley loaves. Barley was the ordinary coarse food of the poorer people. It is not mentioned in any of the Gospels except here. And two fishes. Literally this should read "two small fishes," a word used only by the apostle John, here and in 21: 9, 10, 13. Originally the word meant "anything eaten with bread or other food: and, as salt fish was most commonly used for this purpose, the word came gradually to mean 'fish' in particular." But what are these among so many? This is a perfectly natural question, for the loaves and the fishes together were no more than enough to satisfy the appetite of one hungry person. And yet here were five thousand men, besides women and children.

9. Jesus said, Make the people sit down. It would be much easier to distribute food mong this vast multitude if they were distributed in groups of hundreds and fifties, reclining on the grass (Mark 6: 39, 40) The absolute confidence of Jesus in His ability to satisfy this great multitude is revealed in every line of this narrative. Now there was much grass in the place: As there would be early in April. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. "The men alone were arranged in companies, or alone arranged so that any account was taken of them: the women and children being served promiscuously; who indeed, if the multitude were a paschal caravan, or parts of many such, would not be likely to be very numerous."

10 Jesus therefore took the loaves. It is not so said, but certainly it must be assumed that the little boy here offered these loaves to Jesus, or at least to Andrew. Andrew would not have known that the boy even had these loaves and fishes unless the little fellow had come down near where Jesus and His disciples were standing. Jesus never takes and uses anything of ours unless we willingly allow Him to. And having given thanks: Suppose every prayer of ours were offered invariably with thanksgiving, how many more of our prayers would be answered! (Phil. 4: 6)" He distributed to them that were set down. Of course He distributed through the ministry of the disciples to whom He gave the broken loaves. Likewise also of the fishes as much as they would. That is, as much as the people needed for the satisfaction of their hunger.

11. And when they were filled, He saith unto His disciples, Gather up the broken pieces which remain over, that nothing be lost. "Thus with the Lord of nature, as with nature herself, the most prodigal bounty goes hand in hand with the nicest and exactest economy; and he who had but now shown himself God, again submits Himself to the laws and proprieties of His earthly condition, so that, as in the miracle itself His power, in this command His humility, shines eminently forth."

12. So they gathered them up, and filled 12 baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves, which remained over unto them that had eaten. These baskets were the stout wicker baskets as distinguished from the soft flexible "frails," mentioned in Matt. 15: 37 and Mark 8:8.

13. When therefore the people saw the sign which He did, they said, This is of a truth the prophet that cometh into the world. This is the second time that Christ has been recognized as a prophet sent from God (4: 19; 7: 40; 9: 17; Deut. 18: 15). All attempts to escape the miraculous nature of this event violate all the canons of historical evidence, and are, on the face of them, irrational and foolish. John was there and John knew what happened.

14. Jesus therefore perceiving that they were about to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again into the mountain Himself alone. (See Matt. 11: 12; Acts 23: 10.) This multitude only wanted to crown Him as king because they were conscious that here was one possessing supernatural power, and that, if He could perform such a miracle as they had just witnessed, He could also deliver them from the yoke of the Roman Government. They were not accepting Him as their Messiah and Saviour. (Contra, Luke 19: 14.).

"So far, I have found that censorship in general has helped rather than hurt the motion picture." — Samuel Goldwyn.

New Mayor of Vancouver

George C. Miller, who was elected Mayor of Vancouver in succession to G G. McGeer, M.P.

The Big Moment At a Small Wedding Party

With little fuss or bother, Frank J. Delfino, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Sadie Jane Williams, midgets who met in Chicago, were married in the bride's home in Minneapolis. The Rev. Norman B. Harrison holds them on his knees after ceremony while bride's normal-sized brother and sister look on.

May Prevent Silicosis

CINCINNATI.—Dr. R. Emmons, of the University of Wisconsin reported to the Geological Society of America last week the apparently successful use of foreign dust particles as a preventive for silicosis, widespread industrial disease caused by inhalation of silica particles.

After two years of search, he said, "we have been encouraged to believe that we have found a preventive, but laboratory proof is never enough. The only proof that counts is the proof of many years time, the actual testing in industry.

"The process of preventing silicosis involves, briefly, the mixing of certain other dusts with the silica in the air so that the silica dust, when breathed, is rendered harmless to the lung tissue," he said. Carbon, said Dr. Emmons, was one of the common elements which rendered the silica harmless.

White House Artist

Mabel E. Williams, White House stenographer, is shown with a drawing which she recently made from an Acme photo of President Roosevelt. She has received many compliments for her clever sketch from nearly every member of the White House family and staff.

Gala Welcome for the Infant

That chubby infant, 1937, was quite happy to be welcomed by such a charmer as Donna Dae who led one of the gala celebrations in Chicago. Wild scenes of welcome like this greeted him all over the nation.

FARM NOTES

Conducted by PROFESSOR HENRY G. BELL
With the Co-Operation of the Various Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Question 1:— "Please give me information concerning the best method of applying fertilizer for canning tomatoes." — B. G., Wellington County.

Answer:— Two methods of application of fertilizer for canning tomatoes have given good results. First, where field is checked off by the marker, a handful of fertilizer is dropped at the cross checks, and is thoroughly worked into the soil before the plant is set. The second method is, after the plant is set a funnel is placed upside down over the plant and fertilizer is dropped around the edge of the funnel This is known as ring application. The fertilizer is then worked into the soil. This has given good results in experimental tests. Planting machines are built to work the fertilizer into the soil at the same time as they set the plants. The one principle to remember is to keep the plant roots from coming immediately in contact with too concentrated a solution of plant food.

Question 2:— (a) "How should fertilizer be used with strawberries and what is the best analysis to use?

(b) "What is the best fertilizer to use in a garden when all kinds of vegetables are to be grown? How much should be used and how should it be applied?" J. O. T., Wellington County.

Answer:— When strawberries are set out, excellent results are obtained by working into the soil, 4-8-10 fertilizer. This should be applied and worked into the soil where the row is to be set before the plants are transplanted Where the strawberries are allowed to stand more than two years, good results have been obtained by top dressing the strawberries with about 500 lbs. per acre of 4-8-10 after the berries have been picked. In the spring, frequently good results are obtained by top dressing the strawberry bed with Nitrate of Soda using about 100 lbs. per acre. Scatter this over the plants after the dew and other moisture has dried off This salt is very soluble and a little rain will quickly wash it into the soil where plants will use it.

(b). One of the best fertilizers to use in the garden for green vegetable crops is 4-8-10. This should be applied at the rate of little less than 1-4 lb. per square yard. Frequently it is best applied in two quantities; about 2-3 scattered on top the dug or plowed garden soil and worked into the soil by discing, harrowing and raking; the other 1-3 should be worked into the soil at the time the seed is sown or plants are set. When the holes are made for transplanting the plants such as tomatoes, cabbage and the like, have a little fertilizer dropped into the hole and soil mixed with it before the plant is set. or better still have the fertilizer worked in along the row where the plant is to be set before the transplanting is done.

Question 2 (a) : "I intend to seed down a field next year with oats as a nurse crop and this field is to be left for permanent pasture. The field is in fairly good shape now and it will receive a light application of manure during the Winter. What fertilizer practice should follow and how often will it be necessary to fertilize when we start pasturing it with dairy cattle?

(b). If I buy fertilizer with a stated analysis such as 2-12-6, how do I know that the fertilizer conforms to the guarantee and am I as a consumer, in any way protected against fraud? I have never used fertilizer, but intend to do so next spring and would like to know that I am purchasing a reputable brand." G.R.S., Kent County.

Answer :— I would advise your using 3-10-5 fertilizer or 2-12-6 at the rate of three bags per acre. If you get a good stand of grass, you should not have to repeat the fertilizing for at least two or three years, unless the soil is very sandy. A top dressing of manure on the standing pasture will be particularly good if you alternate this with fertilizer since I assume one of your problems will be to keep up the organic matter. Have you tested the soil for the acidity? In laying down permanent pasture, it is particularly desirable that the soil be neutral or alkaline, so that you will get a good percentage of legume growth such as clover or alfalfa. If you have not tested your soil, the Ridgetown Experiment Station will be willing to do so, or you can send a sample to the Department of Chemistry, Ontario Agricultural College.

(b). All fertilizer in Canada is sold under the Fertilizers Act which makes specific provision for examining the products of the various companies selling fertilizer in Canada This Act provides that all fertilizer must be sold under guarantee of analysis and must come up to the percentage guaranteed, otherwise, penalties are provided. A corps of inspectors under the direction of the Dominion Department of Agriculture are constantly on the road examing fertilizer stocks at the factories, en route to farmers, and on the farms. This means that fertilizer wares are constantly open to inspection These provisions of control along with the much more important fact that fertilizer companies can stay in business and increase their trade only by rendering services as guaranteed.

Movie-radio gossip

By DOROTHY

Monte Blue, a favorite with film fans for many years, plays the lead in a picture that rekindles the pioneer agricultural west of a century ago. He has the role of John Deere, in "The Blacksmith's Gift," a story which revolves around the life and times of the man who gave to the world the steel plow. The action takes place in 1937 in the Illinois of Abraham Lincoln's day.

Mary Rogers, daughter of the beloved Will, has gone to work at the Twentieth Century-Fox studios where her father made pictures, and has the bungalow dressingroom which he used and which no one else has had since his death.

The beautiful Mary deserves a lot of credit. Her father's influence would have helped with a movie career, but she went out and got theatrical experience instead.

When you see "White Hunter," sympathize with Warner Baxter and June Lang in the scenes where they battle against a tropical hurricane. The hurricane was made right in the studio, of course, but was none the less violent because of that. Baxter and Miss Lang spent a whole day with that storm, what with rehearsals and retakes and one thing and another, and were black and blue when it was over, where they had been bruised by objects blown against them by the wind

June Lang

ODDS and ENDS . Shirley Temple's father has abandoned the banking business and become an agent for actors . . Now he'll have to spend his time trying to find somebody who will be as successful on the screen as is Shirley William Powell will appear without his moustache—at his request—in "The Last of Mrs Cheyney" . . . first time in 15 years that he's done it . . If you listen to Jack Benny's radio programs you've heard Kenny Baker . . You can see as well as hear him in "The King and the Chorus Girl," Carole Lombard's new picture when it's finished; he'll do two songs

Of all birds the tropical Frigatebirl flies the fastest. The Common Black Swift can fly 276 m.p.h.

Canada's Best

Betty Taylor, star Hamilton hurdler, who was an easy winner in the Canadian Press voting for Canada's outstanding girl athlete of 1936.